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Section II: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing discounts to a customer ~~customers~~ for products being offered to said customer ~~customers~~, said method comprising:

entering product information into a customer processing device, said product information being sufficient to identify a selected product;

transmitting said product information from said customer processing device to a server, said server being responsive to a receipt of said product information for determining discount information, said discount information being related to a plurality of different discounts available from one or more different entities ~~which are available~~ for said selected product; and

transmitting said discount information from said server to said customer processing device;

displaying said discount information on a display screen of said customer processing device;

using said customer processing device to choose a selected discount from said plurality of different discounts;

saving said selected discount in a memory;

determining when said customer requests to pay for said selected product;

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

retrieving said selected discount from memory upon said determining; and

charging an appropriate account for each selected discount chosen by said customer, said charge being made after said customer has paid for said selected product.

2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said product information is entered into said customer processing device manually by said customer.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 2 where said product information is entered by said customer at a discount kiosk station located in a store in which said products may be acquired by said customer.

4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said product information is represented by machine readable coded indicia, said machine readable coded indicia being placed proximate to said selected product, said entering being accomplished by scanning said machine readable coded indicia by said customer processing device.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said customer processing device is a wireless device.

6. (Currently Cancelled).

7. (Currently Cancelled).

8. (Currently Cancelled).

9. (Currently Cancelled).

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

10. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 ~~claim 9~~ wherein said selected discount ~~information~~ is transmitted to a local server, said selected discount ~~information~~ being saved in memory in said local server.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 ~~claim 9~~ wherein said selected discount ~~information~~ is saved in a memory within said customer processing device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 ~~claim 9~~ and further including:

associating customer identification information with said selected discount ~~information~~ in said memory.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 12 and further including:

providing customer identifying information for identifying said customer at a checkout terminal; and

retrieving said selected product information and said selected discount ~~information~~ associated with said customer in response to receiving said customer identifying information at said checkout terminal.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13 and further including deducting an amount representative of said selected discount ~~discounts obtained from said selected discount information~~ from charges otherwise applicable for said selected product ~~products~~ at said checkout terminal.

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 14 and further including updating databases associated with said selected product ~~products~~, said updating being initiated at said checkout terminal.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said products are offered for sale to said customers.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said products are offered for license to said customers.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said products are offered for lease to said customers.

19. (Currently Amended) A customer processing device comprising:

~~scanning means selectively operable to scan coded indicia and provide a scanned data output signal representative of said coded indicia;~~

~~means for transmitting said scanned data output signal to a server system, said server system being operable to transmit response information to said customer processing device in response to a receipt of said scanned data output signal;~~

~~means for receiving said response information by said customer processing device;~~

~~means for displaying said response information by said customer processing device~~

means arranged for entering product information into said customer processing device, said product information being

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

sufficient to identify a selected product;

means for transmitting said product information from said customer processing device to a server, said server being responsive to a receipt of said product information for determining discount information, said discount information being related to a plurality of different discounts available from one or more different entities for said selected product;

means for receiving said discount information transmitted from said server to said customer processing device;

means for displaying said discount information on a display screen of said customer processing device;

input means for enabling said customer to choose a selected discount from said plurality of different discounts;

means for saving said selected discount in a memory, said selected discount being retrievable from said memory when said customer requests to pay for said selected product, said selected discount being usable in charging an appropriate account for each selected discount chosen by said customer, said charge being made after said customer has paid for said selected product.

20. (Currently Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The customer processing device as set forth in claim 19 ~~claim 20~~ wherein said means for transmitting is further selectively operable to transmit information related to said user selection to a ~~said~~ server system.

22. (Currently Cancelled).

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

23. (Currently Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A computer terminal in a store environment wherein products are offered to customers, said computer terminal comprising:

input means by which said customers are enabled to input product information ~~related to a particular product, said product~~ information being sufficient to identify a particular product;

~~into a computerized discount system coupled to said computer terminal;~~

~~transmitting means for transmitting said product information from said computer terminal to said computerized discount system, said computerized discount system being operable in response to a receipt of said product information from said computer terminal for providing discount information applicable to said product;~~

~~means for displaying said discount information at said computer terminal~~

means for displaying discount information related to said particular product, said discount information containing a plurality of discounts available from one or more different entities, said input means being selectively operable by a customer to choose one selected discount from said plurality of displayed discounts;

means for saving said one selected discount in memory; and

means for transmitting said one selected discount to a check-out

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

terminal when said customer has requested check-out.

25. (Currently Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The computer terminal as set forth in ~~claim 25~~ claim 24 wherein said means for transmitting said transmitting means is further selectively operable to transmit said ~~preferred~~ one selected discount to a local server system.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer terminal as set forth in claim 26 wherein said ~~preferred~~ one selected discount is stored at said local server system.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A memory device containing coded indicia, said coded indicia being selectively accessible~~ A programmed product, said programmed product being executable by a computer system to generate program signals effective for providing ~~program signals~~ for processing discounts to customers for products being offered to said customers, said program signals being selectively operable for enabling:

~~entering product information into a customer processing device, said product information being sufficient to identify a selected product;~~

~~transmitting said product information from said customer processing device to a server, said server being responsive to a receipt of said product information for determining discount information, said discount information being related to discounts which are available for said selected product; and~~

~~transmitting said discount information from said server to said customer processing device~~

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

enabling an entering of product information into a customer processing device, said product information being sufficient to identify a selected product;

enabling a transmission of said product information from said customer processing device to a server, said server being responsive to a receipt of said product information for determining discount information, said discount information being related to a plurality of different discounts available from one or more different entities for said selected product, said server being operable for transmitting said discount information from said server to said customer processing device;

effecting a display of said discount information on a display screen of said customer processing device;

enabling user input to said customer processing device whereby said user is enabled to choose a selected discount from said plurality of different discounts;

enabling a saving of said selected discount in a memory;

enabling a determination of a request for check-out processing when said customer requests to pay for said selected product, said program signals being further operable for enabling a retrieval of said selected discount from memory upon said determination; and

enabling a charging of an appropriate entity account for each selected discount chosen by said customer.

ATTORNEY DOCKET: AUS920010503US1

PATENT

29. (Currently Amended) A computer system arranged for processing discounts to a customer ~~customers~~ for products being offered to said customer ~~customers~~, said computer system comprising:

means for storing a searchable product discount database;

means for receiving information identifying a particular product by a customer;

means for searching said product discount database to determine discount information applicable to said particular product, said discount information including a plurality of different discounts available from one or more different entities;

means for transmitting said discount information for display on a customer device by which said customer may select a preferred discount from said plurality of different discounts ~~discount information;~~

means for receiving information identifying said preferred discount from said customer device; and

means responsive to a request received from a checkout terminal for transmitting said preferred discount information to said checkout terminal.

30. (Original) The computer system as set forth in claim 29 and further including means for assigning charges to appropriate store and manufacturer accounts for the proper allocation of said preferred discount.